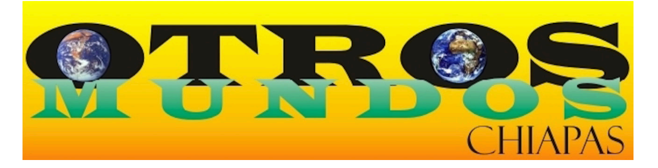
GLOBAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2019



Global Report Otros Mundos Chiapas A.C.

In this report we share our work during 2019 and our paths in the struggles, resistance and defense of life, as well as in the construction of alternatives to the capitalist system, because we believe that other worlds are possible. It is important for us to share some community processes for the defense of land and territory, here you can find them organized by work area.

Defense of the Land and Territory Area

The activities carried out in this year as part of the objectives of strengthening community processes for the defense of land and territory, threatened by megaprojects; as well as contributing to the political education, networking and alliance building in the different movements in resistance.

We organized a meeting of the Chiapas Group against the Extractive Model where 40 people representing MODEVITE, ZODEVITE, MOCRI, FPDS, Las Abejas de Acteal, Digna Ochoa Human Rights Center, Regional Autonomous Council of the Coast, Tonalteco Civic Committee, La Voz del Pueblo, Reddeldia from Montes Azules, gathered to discuss and analyze topics around Green Economy.

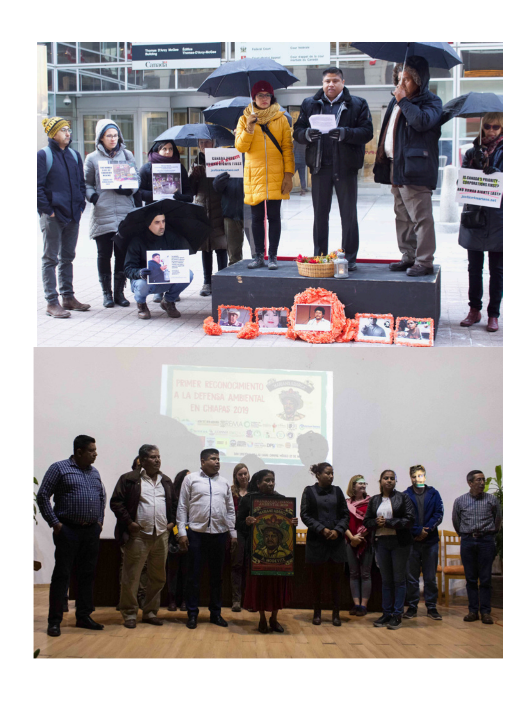




We carried out two modules of the Energy Justice School, where grassroots organizations from different areas of Chiapas, Sierra de Puebla and different departments of Guatemala participated to build a bi-national relationship. In this space we sought formation on dams, and analyzed the energetic context in the state, as well as nationally and internationally.



Under the Prevention Strategy, we participated in community and ejido meetings and assemblies, and together with the "June 20th"Popular Front in Defense of Soconusco, the declaration of Free Mining Municipality in Acacoyagua and Huehuetán was achieved 3 years ago through the Minutes of town hall.



In the case of the murder of environmental defender Mariano Abarca, we continue with the law suit, demanding for justice. We also continue meeting the legal team in Mexico and Canada. We held a meeting in Canada to advance the lawsuit process against the government of that country.

In the commemoration of the Tenth mournful Anniversary of Mariano Abarca, we made the first installment of the "Mariano Abarca" Environmental Defense Award 2019, granted to the indigenous organization MODEVITE, with the endorsement and accompaniment of 32 national and international organizations and networks; while at the same time the Forum for Environmental Defense in Chiapas was being held.

We supported the follow-up of six assemblies with the indigenous communities that demand the conformation of the Community Government political project.

Together with JASS – Just Associates - we carried out an investigation called "Defining Solidarity in Moments of Crisis in Mesoamerica / An intersectional reflection of the current context that strengthens solidarity and care of our movements in the region".



With the ESCR Network, we conducted a Political Education workshop on how to develop our systemic criticism, in our Alter Natos Center, with the participation of members of the Network from different continents.

In the Mexican Network of People Affected by Mining (REMA) we shared press releases to denounce the Extractive Model in the country. In the Mesoamerican Movement against the Extractive Mining Model (M4) we held several virtual coordination meetings prior to the 2020 meeting.

We began the design of the itinerant University in Haiti in order to support capacity building and training efforts of resistance against mining. We supported the creation of an assistance system for the communities that are threatened by the projects of Development Banks together with the Coalition for Human Rights in Development.

Communication area

We managed to increase traffic on the Otros Mundos website, with 40,614 new visits (499,693 total visits). We expanded our audience in social networks, with 12,389 followers (+318) and 12,238 "Like" on Facebook (+266), on Twitter 3,073 followers (+396) and 111 subscribers on Telegram. Our monthly newsletter reaches 1,153 people (+22) with over 10 numbers yearly and the invitations to our "Permanent Seminar on Sustainability" reach 407 people.

We migrated our website to a secure platform and a more secure and versatile administrator to manage and streamline our content on the web. We continue with our rhythm of 1 or 2 publications per day on the website, which we share on our social networks. We have published 8 Escaramujos with the topics: Reasons for the Honduran exodus, The government of Canada to the federal court, What is the Nagoya protocol?, Chiapas: the Sembrando Vida program, Radiography of hydro-projects in Mexico Part I and Part II, The Milpillas Dam and Energy Transition Project 2018-2024. Likewise, we published 3 editions of the "El Zanate" bulletin, on the topics of: The green economy, Extractivism or conservation?, and What is a dam? We always disseminate communications from our sister networks such as REMA, M4 Movement, FOEI and ATALC as well as important reports on issues of defense of the territory, impacts of megaprojects and construction of alternatives.

We have improved our relations with local, national and international media. Our contact list in the press media went from 149 contacts to 215, of which 51 are international.





Regarding the case of the murder of anti-mining Mariano Abarca, the Communication area contributed to the process of seeking justice, along with the Abarca family from Chiapas to Canada, through the implementation of a media campaign which includes a video, as well as a press conference in Mexico City and another in Tuxtla Gutierrez; and the production of informational materials (notes and audios) derived from them. Thanks to the conscious and supportive work of journalists from Chiapas, Mexico and Canada, our call against impunity has echoed in local media (Chiapas Paralelo, Diario de Chiapas, El Heraldo), nationally (Contralínea, Proceso, La Jornada, Aristegui) and internationally (Radio Canada International). In addition, we announced the First Recognition to the Environmental Defense in Chiapas "Mariano Abarca" through an award granted to the Movement in Defense of Life and Territory "MODEVITE" and a video about their struggle.

Together with the Defense of the Land and Territory area, we accompanied the process of resistance of the Chiapas Group against the Extractive Model during their annual meeting, we participated collectively writing the press release that takes up the complaints and words of the participants: Organized peoples of Chiapas oppose false solutions to mitigate climate change.



We continued supporting the "June 20th" Popular Front in Defense of Soconusco (FPDS, for its Spanish acronym) in its fight against mining: The Popular Front in Defense of Soconusco demands that the municipality of Acacoyagua be declared a "Mining Free Territory", Not in Acacoyagua, not in Brazil! Mining out of the world!, 4 years fighting for life Frente Popular en Defensa del Soconusco "20 de junio" Acacoyagua free of mines, Congratulations to the FPDS for its 4th anniversary since their Mining Free territory declaration.



The "Permanent Seminar on Sustainability" is an important vector of information on the extractive model. To date there have been 11 forums and cinema-debates that we organized this year at the Center for Multidisciplinary Research on Chiapas and the Southern Border (CIMSUR), at Café Librería La Cosecha and the Kinoki Independent Cultural Forum. We spoke to an increasingly growing audience (up to 50 participants per event) about the migrant exodus, the human rights landscape in the world, the loss of women's human rights before the right in Latin America, the water problem in San Cristóbal de Las Casas,



the damages caused by mining extraction in the Cahuaré river, and the impact of the consultations in Mexico, and the international day against tree monocultures, among other topics. In these events we had the interventions of colleagues from other organizations and universities.



In coordination with the Defense of Land and Territory area, as well as the Somos La Maya movement, we did the tour for the World Peace and Nonviolence March in San Cristobal de Las Casas, raising awareness about some of the problems this city faces regarding water. Additionally, the forum: "Water Problems in the Jovel Valley."



In coordination with the Community Alter Natos area, we carried out the Maize Day Conference, which included the presentation of the book "Highly Hazardous Pesticides in Mexico" by Fernando Bejarano, the showcasing of the documentary "SÚNU" and the Maize Fair.

We participated in the Sustainability School by Friends of the Earth Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the Anti-imperialist Continental Conference, for democracy and in solidarity with Cuba.

We also supported the justice demand by the Civic Counsel of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH, for its Spanish acronym) for the murder of their coordinator Berta Cáceres on March 2nd, 2016. We shared 10 information notes about this topic and published a declaration in the global action to commemorate Berta. We organized a commemorative event marking 3 years since her murder.

In general, we seek to vindicate our feminist view in our communications, as well as contribute to the dismantling of patriarchy. In line with this, we covered the March 8th feminist march in San Cristobal de Las Casas, and we published a statement about it. Additionally, we organized two seminars about women's struggle, their participation in movements in defense of land and territory.



Resistance against Criminalization Area

The advancement of the Capital occurs on the territories, particularly indigenous and rural lands, which, along with the resistance within the peoples, results in a context in which the struggles for the defense of the environment has grown and, with it, so have the attacks and criminalization of defenders.
We understand as "criminalization" all the ways in which social and defense struggles are sought to be stopped and discouraged.
Nowadays indeed, environmental advocacy has become a risky form of defense and criminalization is on the rise. Psychosocial Accompaniment is a process of individual, family, organizational, and community attention, which is aimed at addressing the impacts of socio-political violence against defenders, thus creating spaces of emotional support, organizational strengthening and forms of confrontation. It emphasizes the collective, particular contexts, and the great strengths that groups and communities have in their defense of life. It frames an ethical premise in which the communities themselves take on the process and they are named and made visible from their own history and in their own terms.
The objective of this process of psychosocial care has been to contribute to the strengthening of social movements, collectives, organizations, and indigenous and peasant communities, including women in particular, in the defense of their individual and collective human rights in Mexico. It also aims to increase the individual and collective response and resilience of indigenous organizations, communities and women who are the victims of socio-political violence and criminalization because of their actions in defense of the land and territory in Chiapas and Oaxaca.
During 2019, from Otros Mundos A.C. we are undergoing a process of psychosocial accompaniment with 60 defenders from 5 indigenous and peasant organizations in Chiapas and Oaxaca and a process of psycho-emotional accompaniment with a group of 15 women defenders from four indigenous organizations in Chiapas. A path between defenders from human rights organizations and peasants and Zoque, Tseltal, Tsotsil, and Zapotec indigenous peoples, through 11 workshops.

Alter Natos Area

Through the Popular School of Water and Energy, during 2019 we carried out three community diagnoses in the Highlands of Chiapas area. Based on the results, we worked on strengthening the water supply systems, and three rain harvesting and distribution systems were built. In the Alter Natos Ecological Center, we held workshops on bioconstruction, a workshop on fine finishing and plastering of earthen walls, and another was for the construction of a wood-saving oven in which the people from different community groups participated. During this period, we also held workshops to analyze the impacts of the extractive model in the territories, focusing on analyses on water supply, distribution and quality, energy access (whose energy and what for), the impacts of the industrial agriculture model, and other topics.







Other activities that were promoted from this area were: the presentation of the book Highly Hazardous Pesticides in Mexico, an encounter of experience sharing in the workshop "Impacts of Pesticides in Health and Environment", as well as the celebration of the International Maize Day with a fair of agroecological products and the presentation of the documentary "Sunú" on the threats the rural world is subjected to. These conferences had the objective of sharing information about the significance of the cultivation of endemic maize varieties for the peoples of Mexico, and the rest of the world. Furthermore, the impacts of many everyday pesticides, which contain a myriad of active substances that have been banned in many Latin American and European countries but not in Mexico, were shared with peasant communities and organizations.

During this year, we also kept our participation in alternative education projects and we shared a knowledge exchange space with 45 students from Tsotsil communities about their territories, their common natural resources, water, diversity, traditional agriculture, the impacts of development projects on the territory, and other topics related to environmental care.



Alter Natos Center

In 2019, we concluded the major structures and appropriate technology systems of the Alter Natos Center. It is now open to the general public for cultural events, educational events, therapeutic events, encounters for the sharing of experiences, seminars, conferences, tours and guided visits. It is a beautiful space that offers its users the possibility for different activities in a nature-respecting setting.

It has been a year full of activities: 28 workshops, forums, encounters, visits, and periodical tours. We have also shared talks with many people from social organizations, community groups, students, and diverse collectives about the different processes of bio-construction systems, we were focused in capacity building systems for water harvesting, ecological dry sanitation systems, grey waters treatment filters, and we began the construction of a space that will be destined for an experimental workshop for appropriate technology systems.









This year, we nurtured our bonds with collectives, projects, and educational institutions from different local, national and international universities that participated by sending students to complete their social service, visits and professional practices. Similarly, we received invaluable support from volunteers who collaborated in care and maintenance activities in the facilities.

Alter Natos was the headquarters for diverse collaboration processes, such as the summer course "Popular School of Water and Energy" for students from the Valle de Chalco Technological University, community groups from Puebla and Mexico City and the Meneses IBERO Center, as well as a workshop on social and environmental impacts from the use of pesticides, and a visit of a delegation from the Denver University, from Colorado, among others.





